ROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any complaints with regard to black marketing of LPG cylinders by the distributors/dealers in the capital during the months of January and February, 1989 till date;

(b) if so, what are the names of these distributors/dealers and the action taken by Government against them;

(c) whether Government's attention has also been drawn towards the news item which appeared in various newspapers to this effect during the first week of February, 1989; and

(d) if so, what action Government have taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) to (d) Even though no specific instances in this regard have been brought to the notice of the Government, the possibility of such malpractices by unscrupulous elements cannot be ruled out. Complaints received by the oil companies in this regard are investigated promptly, wherever necessary, and appropriate action is taken against the erring distributors in accordance with the Marketing Discipline Guidelines. In addition, the Liquified Petroleum Gas (Regulation of Supply and Distribution) Order, 1988 has been issued by the Government to check any such malpractices.

British Assistance for Developing Indian Petroleum Sector

573. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any proposal has been received by Government from British Oil Industry for assistance in developing Indian Petroleum Sector; and

(b) if so, what are the salient features thereof and the Government's reaction to these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) A proposal has recently been received from B.P. Exploration, London, proposing technical cooperation with ONGC for exploration work in the Himalayan Foothills Zone and the Plains of U.P. No proposal for assistance as such has been received.

British Oil Cos. have also shown commercial interest in liquified natural gas import feasibility study, city distribution of natural gas and exploration for hydrocarbons.

Projections for Production and Distribution of LPG

574. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) what were the projections in the last three years for the production and distribution of LPG in the country;

(b) what were the actuals achieved; and

(c) what are the reasons for shortfall; if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) to (c) The target fixed for the production and distribution of LPG as well as the actuals achieved during the last three years are given below:

(000 MT)

	1985-86	1986-87	1987-88
Production			
Targets	1250	1450	1613
Actuals	1230	1489	1588 (Provisional)
Distribution			
Targets	1250	1520	1740
Actuals	1241	1497	1686

As could be seen from the above the shortfall in production and distribution is insignificant.

Indo-Soviet Agreement to Develop Oil Technology

575. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Soviet Union have reached an agreement to develop a sophisticated systematic technology to determine oil deposits in the prospective basins in the country;

(b) whether a Soviet team of experts headed by noted geoscientists visited India in January, 1988 to help ONGC experts in developing the technology; and

(c) if so, to what extent this technology has helped India so far in determining the oil deposits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Oil Refinery at Karnal

576. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal to set up oil refinery at Karnal (Haryana) has been shelved by Government;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) if the answer to part (a) above be in the negative, what are the reasons for delay in taking up project and by when the work is likely to be taken up and the period by which the project is likely to be completed.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) As per the terms of the Memorandum of Understanding signed between the two Joint Venture partners *viz.* Indian Oil Corporation Ltd. & Tata Chemicals Ltd., a Detailed Project Report (DPR) was submitted by them in May, 1988. The DPR was examined by the Government and the Joint Venture Company was asked to incorporate material relating to evaluation of different processing schemes, some detailed engineering etc. in the DPR which is essential to arrive at a realistic cost estimate and time frame for project implementation. Target date for completion has not been fixed.

Complaints Against Petrol Pump Dealers and LPG Agencies of Delhi

577. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that his Ministry and Petroleum Companies have received a number of complaints regarding corruption, rude behaviour, malpractices etc., against some Petrol pump dealers and LPG Agencies located in Delhi;

(b) if so, what is the number and nature of the complaints which have been received against each company during the last three years; and

(c) whether any action has been taken by Government in this regard and if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Oil Marketing Companies have received complaints against Retail Outlet (Petrol/Diesel) Dealerships and LPG Distributorships during the last three years. These complaints generally relate to rude behaviour, short delivery, product contamination, over-charging, non-availability of